

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

Vol. XV. No. 15.] LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1809.

[Price 1s.

"Your Lordship knows, that had I followed my own opinion, as a military man, I should have retired with the army from Salamanca. The Spanish armies were then beaten; there was no Spanish force to which we could unite; and I was satisfied that no efforts would be made to aid us, or to favour the cause in which they were engaged. — I was sensible, however, that the apathy and indifference of the Spaniards would never have been believed; that had the British been withdrawn, the loss of the cause would have been imputed to their retreat, and it was necessary to risk this army to convince the people of England, as well as the rest of Europe, that the Spaniards had neither the power nor the inclination to make any efforts for themselves. It was for this reason that I made the march to Sahagan. As a diversion, it succeeded: I brought the whole disposable force of the French against this army, and it has been allowed to follow me, without a single movement being made to favour my retreat. The people of the Gallicias, though armed, made no attempt to stop the passage of the French through the mountains. They abandoned their dwellings at our approach, drove away their carts, oxen, and every thing that could be of the smallest aid to the army. The consequence has been, that our sick have been left behind; and when our horses or mules failed, which on such marches, and through such a country, was the case to a great extent, baggage, ammunition, stores, &c. and even money, were necessarily destroyed or abandoned." — SIR JOHN MOORE'S Letter to Lord Castlereagh, dated Corunna, 15 Jan. 1809:

545]

[546

HAMPSHIRE MEETING.

On Saturday, the 8th instant, the following Requisition was carried to MR. BLACKBURN, the High Sheriff, by MR. COBBETT of Botley, and MR HOUGHTON of Durley. On Wednesday the 12th, the Sheriff transmitted to them his Notice for the Meeting, as it will be seen at the bottom of the signatures.

To the High Sheriff of the County of
SOUTHAMPTON.

SIR, Winchester, 8th April, 1809.

We, the undersigned Freeholders and other Landholders of the County of Southampton, request that you will be pleased to call a Meeting of the Inhabitants of this County, to be holden at Winchester, on such day as shall, at no great distance, be convenient to you, in order to afford us, and the Inhabitants of this County in general, an opportunity of publicly and formally giving our thanks to Gwyllym L. Wardle, Esq. M. P. for his upright and public-spirited conduct, during the recent Inquiry before the House of Commons; and also of expressing our sentiments upon the subjects of that Inquiry.

William Cobbett	Botley.
John Hopkinson	Eling.
Thomas Comley	Rumsey.
Stephen Leach	Rumsey.
Thomas King	Eling.
John Comley	Rumsey.
C. H. Longcroft	Hamble.
Benjamin Goodeve	Gosport.
James Sharp	Rumsey.
Christopher Keele	Broughton.
Samuel Phené	Rumsey.
John Colson	Southampton.
Joseph Jackson	Rumsey.

John Black	Rumsey.
Edward Toomer	Southampton.
Charles Godfrey	Rumsey.
Thomas Bernard	Mitchmarsh.
Thomas Nichols	Southampton.
William Green	Kimbridge.
Peter Jewell	Timsbury.
Rev. John Webster	Bursledon.
Samuel Sharp	Rumsey.
Moses Wilkins	Braishfield.
Aaron Barking	Rumsey.
Josiah George	Rumsey.
Jacob Colson	Braishfield.
Joshua Short	Brockenburst.
John Wilt	Eling.
James Hayter	Eling.
Thomas Sutton	Southampton.
John Goldsmith	Hambleton.
William Biles	Eling.
Edward Houghton	Durley.
William Metchard	Eling.
Giles Barnes	Tichborne.
John Saunders	Eling.
William Twynam	Soberton.
Francis Hoad	Soberton.
Peter Knight	Soberton.
Henry Parrott	Droxford.
William Powlett Powlett	
Thomas Hatch	Soberton.
John Cotman	Hambleton.
Francis Godrich	Tichborne.
William Agate	Ovington.
John Sayer	Winchester.
H. Mulcock	Kilmiston.
Joseph May	Bramshaw.
Rev. Thomas May	
John Stroud	Timsbury.
James May	Rumsey.
William Barnett	Rumsey.
John Kellaway	Fordingbridge.
W. W. Wright	Sopley.
John Skeats	Lymington.
Matthew Aldridge	Throop.
George Aldridge	Christchurch.
Thomas Gatrell	Lymington.
Ambrose Daw	Wick.
George Benson	Ringwood.
John Clay	Portsmouth.
John Skoveller	Portsmouth.

Alexander Carter	Ringwood.
Samuel Blake	Rumsey.
James Traver	Rumsey.
Robert Moody	Winchester.
Richard Mills	Beworth.
James Baverstock	Alton.
F. H. Grey	Alton.

In compliance with the above Request, I hereby appoint a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the said County to be holden at the Castle of Winchester, on Tuesday, the 25th day of April instant, at twelve o'clock at noon. (Signed)

JOHN BLACKBURN, *Sheriff.*

Preston Candover, 11th April, 1809.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HAMPSHIRE.

The above Requisition is, as you will see, signed by none of those *Noblemen* or *Baronets*, who have been in the habit of putting their names to papers of that sort; and this circumstance, so far from being unpleasing, is, to me, and, I trust, it will be to you, a very pleasing one. Not that any of us can wish to see those persons hang back upon an occasion in which all the best public feelings urged every soul to step forward; but, because the Requisition, as it now stands, will convince them, and also the king's ministers, who have so long dictated to this county, that there is yet remaining in Hampshire a spirit of independence not so very easily to be subdued. It will show to our countrymen in general, that, though the ministry of the day do cause to be elected whatever County Members they please, there is still a spirit in the people to feel indignant at the wrongs and the insults they endure. It will show to those parties, who have, for so many years, divided the county between them, and who have, by turns, profited from its credulity, that the county is no longer to be held in leading strings; that we have sense to think, and courage to act for ourselves.—What, let me ask, could be more degrading to us, than to see existing a practice of calling county-meetings by ten or twelve persons, of each of the *parties* respectively, always nearly the same persons, just as if it was an office they held for that purpose, and just as if all the other Landholders, all the Farmers, all the Tradesmen, and, indeed, the whole of the population of the county, were so many mere puppets, or tools, in their hands, to be called together for the purpose of voting just what those settled and established leaders chose to write down upon a piece of paper, and read to them? What, let me again put it to you, could

possibly be more degrading than this?—I have heard, and you, I am sure, will hear it with pleasure, that some of the Noblemen and other persons of great property in the county, who have not signed the Requisition, do nevertheless highly approve of it, and do intend to be at the Meeting; and, perhaps, they may have thought, that, upon such an occasion, it was best to avoid every thing which should give to the origin of the proceeding a *party* complexion. If such was their motive, it is one of which we cannot find fault, provided they now show us, that they are disposed to lend their hand in putting down for ever that system of Corruption, which has been *proved* to have long existed, and by the means of which we have been so mercilessly plundered. For my own part, nothing would give me so much pleasure as to see the leaders of both parties come to the Meeting, and divide between them the honour of proposing to us such Resolutions as the occasion demands; never forgetting, however, that Mr. Wm. POWLETT POWLETT, who, unsolicited, came and put his name amongst ours, has, upon us, not only now, but upon all future occasions, a clear and indisputable claim to the precedence.—But, let who will be the proposer, we must take care that what we approve of be *good and sound*; we must take care, that our real sentiments be fully expressed, and not frittered away, until it be hard to distinguish our censure from our praise. Our feelings, upon this occasion, are strong; our opinions clear and fixed; and we shall act a very inconsistent part, indeed, unless our language corresponds with those opinions and those feelings.—It must be manifest to every man in his senses, that, unless a stop be speedily put to the workings of corruption, one of two things will happen: the complete slavery of us all, or the overthrow of the government; and, it must be equally manifest, that this alternative is to be avoided by no other means than the legal and constitutional interference of the people themselves, and especially the people who are in the middling walks of life, who have property to preserve and who have judgment to direct their actions. It is a common excuse, that, “one man can do nothing.” Not much of *himself*, perhaps; but, without *one* man there would be *no* men in the world. Millions are made up of *ones*; and, if every man were to say, “what can *I* do,” there would, of course, be nothing done. There are few of us, who do not put ourselves to some inconve-

[549]

nience for the sake of our *private* advantage; or, rather, the labours and fatigues we undergo for that purpose, we think nothing of. And, shall we, then, not endure a little labour and fatigue for the *public* advantage, especially as it is impossible for the public to be benefited without each of us having his due share of that benefit? Besides, there is, in the present case, a motive far superior to all selfish considerations. We are now called upon to thank the man, who has risked every thing for us; we are called upon to do an act of justice, and if we do not answer the call, we have nothing of Englishmen left in us but the name.—We should always bear in mind, that the king's ministers declared, that, if a Vote of THANKS to Mr. WARDLE was moved, in the House of Commons, they would *oppose it*, and there is no doubt but they would have had a majority on their side. Well, if the House of Commons refuse him thanks for the inestimable good, which he has done for the people, there is so much the stronger call upon the people to thank him; and, for them to grudge any labour or pains to do it with effect would argue, in them, a want of common sense as well as of gratitude; for, we may be assured, that, unless Mr. WARDLE be supported by the unequivocal voice of the people, no man will be much inclined to imitate him; and, it is hardly necessary to say, that, unless more and much more be done, that which has been done will be worth nothing at all, in the space of a few months.—For these reasons all persons who are able to attend the Meeting ought to attend it, be the inconvenience what it may, nothing being a good excuse short of actual bodily infirmity.—I shall add a few words as to the part *which I have acted* in this proceeding. There are not wanting persons to hint, that I am actuated by *ambitious motives*, and to draw conclusions of this sort from my name standing *at the head* of the Requisition. Now, the facts are these. I, in the first place, inquired, whether the Lords and the Baronets intended to send a Requisition, and I found they did not. It was then *proposed to me*, by several persons, to join in a Requisition. When it was drawn up, I did not sign it, till many others had been asked to sign first; and, even then, a space was left *above* my name, in order that the names of any noblemen or gentlemen or yeomen might be placed before mine upon the list. Several gentlemen, amongst whom were Mr. Powlett Powlett and Mr. May, I believe, were par-

ticularly asked to place their names at the top of the list, which they declined, and in which they discovered minds superior to that false pride, which never yet was characteristic of a real gentleman. I do, I must confess, feel some pride at seeing my name at the head of such a list; but, not a single name was placed in that list at *my request*; I did not even *ask* any man to sign it; and the pride I feel arises, not from the vain and empty notion that I possess an influence over any man, but that my principles and views correspond with those of so many intelligent, public-spirited, and respectable Tradesmen and Yeomen, to be regarded as *one of whom*, is the utmost bounds of my ambition. I have no silly and stupid pursuit of popularity. I have seen too much of the vexations and the miseries of all such pursuits. I would not shake a knave by the hand if his vote would make me not only a member for, but the *owner* of, the county; nor would I, if I could, even without asking for, be a member of parliament, or fill any post or employment whatever under, or in, the government. I have, though not yet very old, had quite enough both of censure and applause. Constant observation has convinced me, that happiness is seldom the companion of a pursuit after power; and my taste as well as my reason lead me to avoid all such pursuits. Indeed, I could be well content never to go out of the valley, in which I live; but, the duty of a father and an Englishman, calls imperiously upon me not to stand with my arms folded and see my children and my country robbed, disgraced, and enslaved. Our forefathers wrote and strove and fought and bled for us; and, if we can tamely see those rights, which their talents, their courage, and their perseverance entailed on us, taken away, little by little, until there is nothing left as a protection for those to whom we have given life, we are not only amongst the most base, but we are the very basest of all mankind.—I have had too much opportunity of studying men and things to be led astray by any *wild theories about liberty*. I know, that there must be *government*, and that there must be *law*, without which there can be no such thing as property, nor any safety even for our persons. I want to see no *innovation* in England. All I wish and all I strive for, is *The Constitution of England*; undefiled by corruption. I am very willing to make even great allowances for the neglects and faults of men in power; because I see, that, even in our

own private concerns, we are, the very best of us, frequently guilty of both. But, when I see a system of public corruption, of barefaced public robbery, brought to light, and hear those, who have had the virtue to make the exposure, termed enemies of the country; when I see my country thus pillaged and thus insulted, I should hate the very sound of my name, if I were not ready to affix it to a protest against such proceedings.

WILLIAM COBBETT.

Botley, Thursday, 13th April, 1809.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

SPAIN.—In my last, I offered to the public some observations relative to the measures of our government in regard to Spain; and, reasoning upon former dispatches, from Sir John Moore, shewed, as I thought, and still think, that the loss and disgrace arising from the embarrassed situation, and from the final flight of our army, were to be solely ascribed, as to their immediate cause, to the fear of Sir John Moore of coming back without doing something, which fear arose from the false notions, so industriously propagated in England, respecting the force and the spirit of the people of Spain.—Indeed, before I had seen any of the latter dispatches of that unfortunate General, and just at the time when we first heard of his death, I stated to my readers that this had been the real cause of all the misfortunes of him and his army. But now, we have the *proof* in his own last words, that this was the cause; that “it was necessary to *risk* the army, “to convince the people of England, that the Spaniards had neither the power nor the “inclination to make any efforts for themselves;” that is to say, that the almost certain destruction; that all the miseries of the army; that the loss of so many valuable lives; that death, in its most horrid form, suffered by so many Englishmen; that all this was necessary to open the eyes of Englishmen at home to the *truth* respecting Spain; that all this was necessary on account of the *false notions* entertained by the people of England.—Now, this is a very heavy charge against the people of England; and, I must confess, that the charge is but too well founded; though, had I been in the place of Sir John Moore, I would not, from any such motive, have risked the army; and, if I had *risked* it at all, it should have been in *meeting*, and not in *fleeing from*, the enemy; for, much more honourable, and ultimately more beneficial to my country, should I have

thought it, to see half my men killed, and the other half, when overpowered by numbers beyond the hope of extricating themselves, led captive into France, than to see the whole of that army flee from an enemy, whom it had scarcely a glimpse of till the very last, and indeed, whom, if the transports had been ready, it never would have seen in numbers one fifth equal to its own.—But, while I acknowledge the justice of the charge against the people of England, what am I to say of those, by whom the people of England were deceived? What am I to say of the Turtle Patriots, and of that minister of the king, who, in the most solemn manner, and in his master's name, told us of the resistance to be expected by the French from “the *universal Spanish nation*?” True, the people of England ought not to have believed these persons; but, still what are we to say of the conduct of these persons? To that sentence, wherein the unfortunate General speaks of the groundless belief of the people of England, he might have added, and he ought to have added, a censure upon those, by whom the people of England had been deceived.—For endeavouring, in the months of June and July last, to prevent this spreading deception; for telling the people of England *not to believe* that the Spaniards would make exertions for Ferdinand; for warning them not to give into expectations which must be disappointed; for using all my efforts to destroy those false notions, the existence of which it is now *proved* was the cause of Sir John Moore's *risking* the army: for doing this, I was, by the writers on the side of the ministry, denominated a *Jacobin*, and was accused of endeavouring, under the immediate instigation of the devil, to subvert the throne, the church, and all the establishments of England. This is the standing charge. It is a charge preferred against every man, who complains of any public grievance, or who endeavours to open the eyes of the people to any fault or any folly of any man in power. To make war for what was called a “legitimate sovereign,” to spend the money and spill the blood of Englishmen for the support of monarchy in Spain, was a favourite scheme; the people were dragged together in town and county meetings to *thank* the king (that is to say, his ministers) for having embarked the nation in this hopeful cause;—and, to point out to the people that they were deceived, and that the cause was a rotten one; this was, of course,

[553]

to be a *jacobin* and an enemy of the *throne* and the *church*; a man wishing for anarchy and confusion, for the destruction of all property, and for universal plunder and massacre.—I insert the *whole* of Sir John Moore's letter, in a subsequent page of this sheet; but there is one more passage in it, which is worthy of particular attention. He says: "I am sorry to say, "that the army, whose conduct I had such reason to extol on its march through Portugal, and on its arrival in Spain, has *totally changed its character since it began to retreat. I can say nothing in its favour, but that when there was a prospect of fighting the enemy, the MEN were then orderly, and seemed pleased and determined to do their duty.*" The "MEN," observe. He does not say the *officers* and the *men*. The whole army has his *censure*, and the applauding exception applies only to the *men*.—Now, then, what are become of all the evidence to character, which Mr. Yorke called forth, from Gen. Fitzpatrick, Sir James Pulteney and others, in favour of the Duke of York, and about that non-pareil of *discipline*, which the wisdom of that gallant Chieftain had introduced into the army? Where are we now to look for the excellence of that discipline? When I ventured to doubt of its existence, there were persons to say, that I ought to have fifty swords run through my body at once. But, here we have it under the General's own hand, that the army was bad in every respect, except in the *native courage* of the men. Indeed, as to this latter point, not only were the men pleased when there was a prospect of fighting the enemy; but, I state, upon the word of an eye and ear witness, that the men, during the whole of the retreat, blamed the precipitancy of the retreat, asked aloud, "*what are we running away from?*" and were by no means sparing of their execrations upon this score.—Some of the public prints have expressed their regret, that this letter has been published. After all, it is, as the reader will see, but an *extract* of the letter; and, if the whole had been published, it is probable we should have had a pretty view of the situation of Spain. But, what *harm* can the publication do? Or, are there men so wedded to error, that they are sorry to be undeceived? Was it wrong to let us see, that we had been deceived with regard to the inclination of the people in Spain? "But, the army!" Well, what of the army? Are we not to know the *truth* about the army? Or are we to

know them only by the sums we pay for their support?—This letter of Sir John Moore is very valuable. It will be an answer to all those, who talk of the Duke of York's discipline. Sir Arthur Wellesley said, that the Duke of York merited his full share of the thanks that were given for the "victory" of Vímiera; let him, then, take his full share of whatever is due to the conduct of the army in its Spanish retreat.—But, reader, after what we have seen of the appointment of officers, upon whom all *discipline* must depend, need we wonder at what the unfortunate General says? Could we have heard the *true* history of many other of our famous expeditions, we should not have been astounded by the letter of Sir John Moore, who, observe, gives the account, we have been reading, in a letter which he considers as *private*, and the ministers have, very evidently, consented to its publication, with a view of throwing the blame upon the army, or, at least, removing to the army a part of the blame, attached, before, solely to themselves. But, theirs is the blame of the *original cause* of all this evil. They should have known, that the people of Spain had neither force nor inclination to assist themselves; or, rather, to assist *king Ferdinand*, the design of making war for whom was first announced to the world in a *toast*, given by Mr. Canning, at the feast of the *Turtle Patriots*. This is what I charge them with. Their military blunders are nothing when compared to this, which is a fault that admits not of excuse or of palliation. Was there ever any thing so mad? Did ever any scheme bear upon the front of it such marks of genuine folly, as this scheme of fighting, and making the people of Spain fight, for a government, which they themselves had termed "*infamous?*" Besides, there was the rule of the *priests*. The existence of that alone must, one would think, have convinced any sane person, that the people of Spain were not prepared for any exertion, proceeding from public spirit. Why, the mass of the people in Spain have never heard, their ears have never received even the *sound* of the words *freedom* and *independence*. They have never entertained the idea of *liberty* or of *property*. Need you, then, wonder at the "*apathy*" and "*indifference,*" of which Sir John Moore speaks? A people in such a state think about how they are to get enough to eat and drink and to keep their bodies from the inclemency of the weather; but, what, in the name of reason, should they

fight for? Where, unless you first enlighten them, and break their chains, and give them motives, are they to see an inducement for sacrificing their lives?—The same game, however, is, it seems, to be played in *Portugal*, whither, if the newspapers be correct, another expedition is going or gone. One would have thought, that we had had enough, in all conscience, of this work. But, there will be no end to it, as long as there is a spot of earth whereon for us to play our miserable pranks.—In *Sicily*, we have, I think, from 12 to 18 thousand men pent up; and, for what? In order to know that well, you must read a pamphlet, not long ago published by Mr. Lekie. In that you will see very clearly the reason for keeping 18 thousand English troops in that Island. The Prince Regent of Portugal has, it seems, appointed one of our Generals (Beresford) to be Field Marshal of Portugal. This act speaks pretty plainly for itself. It clearly shews what the Prince Regent thinks of the attachment of his own subjects. The Portuguese General FREIRE is said to have been butchered by his troops, on an accusation of *treachery*; while the French were advancing towards Oporto. And, this is the country, to which we are sending another army, at an expence enormous!—One of the newspapers complains, that, since the retreat of Sir John Moore's army, the people of England are become *cool* as to the cause in Spain; the reason is, that they now *understand what that cause really is*; that they now know something of the situation of the people of Spain; in short, they are become cool, because they are no longer duped; because they see, that the war, if it had terminated successfully, would have only served to rivet the chains of the enslaved. The people of England are no longer to be made believe, that Ferdinand is to be got out of the clutches of Napoleon by the Spaniards, any more than, by the exertions of a pigeon, the cuckoo is to be wrested from the talons of a kite. It is quite enough, I think, for the people of England to stand patiently and see their earnings wasted in these expeditions, without calling on them to huzza and make bonfires for joy.—There are hundreds upon hundreds, who fatten upon these enterprizes; who hail them with shouts of triumph; to whom an expedition is a dead fortune. That such persons should be *enthusiastic* in the cause is natural enough; but, that those who pay, that those whose comforts and whose

abridged by the expeditions; that such persons should rejoice at them would be unnatural indeed. Besides, the people of England are now convinced, that a remedy for these and all other political evils is to be found no where but *at home*. They know, that it matters to them not a straw what is done in Sicily or in any other country but England; and, they do really seem to be resolved, that nothing shall any longer delude them, or draw off their attention.

MR. WARDLE.—In the newspapers of Wednesday, the 12th instant, it is stated, that, at the WHIG CLUB, held on the 11th, Mr. WARDLE was proposed, as a *candidate* for the honour of being a member, which proposition was, it is said, received with enthusiasm.—Now, I, from authority, state, that this proposition was made *without the approbation*, and even without the *knowledge* of Mr. Wardle; and, I must say, that it was taking an unwarrantable liberty with a name, no small part of the praises attached to which have arisen from the circumstance of his belonging to neither of the *two parties*.—With this exception, I see nothing to be disapproved of in the proceedings of the CLUB, upon this occasion; their Resolutions being very good, and their speeches too. But, why keep the Club up at all? The very existence of it is a mischief. It reminds people of what ought now to be forgotten; besides which, I defy any man to shew me, that a Club, of any sort, ever did any good. How many hundreds of Clubs and Associations have we seen! And, have they, all put together, done a hundredth part so much as we have this last winter, seen done by ONE MAN? It seems to be in the nature of the people of England (and they are a people of good sober sense) to suspect; to view with a suspicious eye every thing done by a political association. They regard such associations as only another sort of rulers; men combined for the furtherance of their own private views; and they turn a deaf ear to them accordingly. As to this Club in particular, it is notorious that it was established for the purpose of keeping together a body of parliamentary interest, for the purpose of getting possession of the power and emoluments of the state. To suppose, that the people will ever have any confidence in such a Club is folly in the highest degree.—There are people, who are for taking the *support* of the Whigs. They will never give any support to any thing that is good. No: they are a *body of politicians* and the people will not hear,



them. Are not Lord *Erskine* and General *Fitzpatrick* members of this Club? Oh! it can do no good. It must do harm; and I should not be at all surprized if that was the real intention of a far greater part of the members. Is not Mr. *Sheridan* a member of this club? In short, have we not seen the Club *in place*? When in place, did they not vow they would carry on everlasting war for *Hanover*; did they not double the *Income Tax*; did they not augment the number of *foreign troops*; did they not pass a law to enable Lord Grenville to hold a *sinecure* of £.4,000 with a place of £.6,000 a year; and did they not end their career by withdrawing a bill from before the House of Commons, avowedly because the said bill was not approved of by the king? No, no; let us have nothing to do with Whig Clubs. If good cannot be done without them, it cannot be done with them. Three or four honest and able and persevering men, with the people at their back, will easily do all that is wanted to be done; but, if these men join a Club, not only the Whig Club, but a Club of any sort, nothing will be done. There will be a great deal of noise; a great deal of toasting and flattering one another to their faces; but there will be no work; there will be no redress obtained for the nation. It is impossible that men, who meet to eat and drink and to make speeches, flattering one another to their faces, can do any good. We shall have Mr. *Sheridan*, who told Mr. Wardle he was imposed upon by a "*foul conspiracy*," shewing his face again soon. He will be at the next meeting of the Club, and will make us a flaming speech about *liberty*, and Mr. *For*. It is too much to tolerate this farce any longer. The best way is for this Club and the Pitt Club to meet, at their different stations, and fire off their toasts at one another, to the amusement of the nation; but, for shame's sake, let not the former attempt to impose upon us with any of its old, stale, rotten professions of patriotism. How Mr. Whitbread can lend his name to the proceedings of this Club is astonishing to me.

Mrs. CLARKE'S BOOK is not, I earnestly hope, either suppressed, or to be suppressed. I should be very sorry if it was. We have a right to know all that she knows about public matters, and I am sure it would be greatly advantageous to us to know it.—There are some persons, who appear to think that we have already seen enough; but, out it must all come. We have not yet seen one verse of one of the chapters

of one of the books of one of the volumes of corruption. What we have yet got a sight of is as a blade of grass to a whole meadow.—Let us have Mrs. Clarke's little book by all means. Why should we not know what is passing and what has passed? She must be a woman divested of all sentiments of honour, if she suppress this book. It will be a compromise from such base motives. I cannot believe it.

Botley, 13th of April, 1809.

The Subscription for the Miss TAYLORS will be closed on the first of May, when a sum will have been obtained quite sufficient for their future comfortable support. The Public has, upon this occasion, shown its humanity as well as its justice; and, I hope, that the objects of its liberality will derive lasting benefit from it. It is intended to purchase annuities secured upon land, of the particulars of which the Subscribers shall be duly informed.

* * From the List of the Minority on Mr. Wardle's Motion, which is given at p. 419, the reader will please to strike out the Name of Mr. Whitmore; and instead of G. N. Noel it ought to be Charles Noel Noel. With these corrections, this ever-memorable List, is, I believe, perfectly correct.

COBBETT'S Parliamentary History OF ENGLAND,

Which, in the compass of Sixteen Volumes, Royal Octavo, will contain a full and accurate Report of all the recorded Proceedings, and of all the Speeches in both Houses of Parliament, from the earliest times to the year 1803, when the publication of "Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates" commenced.

The Subscribers to the above work are respectfully informed, that the Fifth Volume will be delivered to them on Saturday next the 22nd instant. It embraces the period from the Revolution, in 1688, to the Accession of QUEEN ANNE, in the year 1702. For this period, the materials, as well for the Proceedings as the Debates, have been, for the most part, collected from the following Works:

1. The Journals of the House of Lords;
2. The Journals of the House of Commons;
3. The Debates of the House of Commons,

from 1688 to 1694, collected by the Honourable Anchitell Grey, who was forty years member for the town of Derby; 4. The Debate between the Lords and the Commons, at a Free Conference, held in the Painted Chamber, in the Session of the Convention, in 1688, relating to the words, "*Abdicated*," and "*the Vacancy of the Throne*," used in the Vote of the Commons; 5. A Collection of the Debates and Proceedings in Parliament, in 1694 and 1695, upon the Inquiry into the late Briberies and corrupt Practices, printed in the year 1695; 6. Proceedings in the House of Commons against Sir John Fenwick, printed in the year 1698; 7. Timberland's History and Proceedings of the House of Lords; and 8. Chandler's History and Proceedings of the House of Commons.—Here again, as in former Volumes, recourse has been had to the best historians and contemporary writers; and, amongst others, to Burnet, Echard, Kennet, Oldmixon, Ralph, Tindal, Boyer, and Somerville. The Hardwicke Papers have also been consulted; as also the State Tracts, and the Harleian Collection.—There is subjoined, by way of Appendix, a Collection of very scarce and valuable Parliamentary Tracts, taken from those of Lord Sommers, the Harleian Miscellany, and the Collection of State Tracts published during the reign of William the Third.

PROCEEDINGS

In COUNTIES, CITIES, BOROUGHs, &c. relative to the recent INQUIRY in the House of Commons, respecting the Conduct of the DUKE OF YORK.

TOWN OF GLASGOW.

See page 454 of this Volume.

CITY OF CANTERBURY.

See page 455 of this Volume.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER.

See page 502 of this Volume.

CITY OF LONDON, COMMON HALL.

See page 517 of this Volume.

CITY OF ROCHESTER.

At a Common Hall held at Rochester, March 27, 1809, to consider the propriety of passing a Vote of Thanks to Mr. Wardle, and the other Members of the House of Commons who assisted in the late Investigation into the Conduct of the Duke of York:

Resolved: That this Meeting, duly sensible of the advantages the country will derive, from the Charges produced by G. L. Wardle, esq., M. P. in the honourable House of Commons, against the late Commander-in-Chief, the same having, as this Meeting conceives, occasioned his resignation; and highly appreciating the collected and dignified manner he conducted himself throughout the arduous and critical investigation; beg leave to offer him their best and most grateful acknowledgments for his manly, zealous, and patriotic exertions.

Resolved: That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that the conduct of John Calcraft, esq., our worthy Representative, has, by the aid he afforded the honourable Mover of the Charges, and the ability he evinced on the occasion, entitled himself to the gratitude and support of every citizen who wishes well to his country, and the independence of this city.

Resolved: That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to Lord Folkestone, Sir Francis Burdett, and Samuel Whitbread, esq., M. P. and those other Members of the House of Commons, who supported Mr. Wardle, on the late momentous question.

CITY OF GLOUCESTER, AND COUNTY OF THE SAME CITY.

At a Common Council House, held at the Tolsey, in the said City, on Wednesday, the 29th day of March, in the forty-ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord, 1809:

Resolved, That the Freedom of the said City, accompanied with the Thanks of this Corporation, be given to Gwyllyn Lloyd Wardle, esq. for his manly and patriotic exertions in instituting and prosecuting an inquiry into the abuses relative to Military Promotions, notwithstanding the various and formidable obstacles which he had to encounter, in bringing forward and conducting so important an Inquiry.

Resolved, That the grant of the Freedom of the same City, together with such Vote of Thanks, be communicated by the Deputy Town-Clerk, to Colonel Wardle, assigning the reason for which the above honour has been conferred upon him.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this House be given to Henry Howard, and Robert Morris, esqrs. Representatives of this City,

for their honourable support of Colonel Wardle in Parliament.

Resolved, That the above Resolutions be inserted in two Morning and two Evening London Papers, and also in the Gloucester Journal and Gloucester Herald.

R. P. WILTON, Dep. Town Clerk.

TOWN OF CALNE.

At a meeting of the Guild, Stewards, Burgesses, and Inhabitants of the Borough and Town of Calne, convened for the purpose of considering the propriety of Thanking Colonel Wardle for his patriotic conduct in Parliament, the following Address being proposed and seconded, was unanimously carried, and signed by all present:

"To G. L. Wardle, esq., M. P. the Mover of the Charges in the House of Commons, against his royal highness the Duke of York:—We, the Guild, Stewards, Burgesses, and Inhabitants of the Town and Borough of Calne, assembled, feel it our duty, as members of a free country, to express our sense of your public conduct.—We admire alike your courage and manliness, in standing forward, singly and unaided, and laying your Charges "in a tangible shape" before the Representatives of the People; your firmness and judgment in supporting them; and your moderation, when truth had silenced the warnings of responsibility, and threats of infamy, from Ministerial arrogance.—We consider that no efforts of genius nor any feats of heroism can, at this time, render the country such essential service as the honest exertions of independent Members of Parliament, to expose and exterminate corruption.—And we most unfeignedly give you our cordial, sincere, and grateful thanks.—We love our King and Constitution, and complain of no sacrifices that we are called upon to make for their security and support; but we cannot be insensible that too much of our treasure is diverted from the proper channels of national benefit, and lavished on party adherents and sleeping placemen. We however confidently trust that through the course of your political career, so vigorously and usefully began, you will maintain your independence, and suffer no attachment to party to warp you from the people's cause."

Guildhall, Calne, March 30, 1809.

TOWN AND BOROUGH OF DEAL.

At a Common Assembly of the Deputy, Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty of the Town and Borough of Deal, in the County

of Kent, holden at the Guildhall there, the 30th March, 1809, it was resolved,

"That the Thanks of this Court be voted to Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, esq., M. P. for the very manly, spirited, and patriotic manner in which he has called the attention of the House of Commons to the Conduct of the Commander in Chief.

"That the Thanks of this Court be voted to William Honeywood, esq., one of the Representatives in Parliament for this county, and likewise to Mr. Whitbread, lord Folkestone, and sir Francis Burdett, and the several other Members of the House of Commons who gave Mr. Wardle their assistance and support.

"That this Court beg to declare their firm attachment to their Sovereign and to the Constitution, but at the same time they cannot forbear to express that, as long as public abuses exist, the Country can never expect to enjoy the beneficial and happy effect of that constitution, which is the pride of Englishmen and the admiration of the world. This Court therefore humbly hopes that the honourable House of Commons will persevere in the investigation and reform of such abuses till corruption, which has been the downfall of other states, is fully rooted out, and the people may have the satisfaction of knowing and feeling that the sacrifices they make are for the public good, and not perverted to base or improper purposes.

"That those Resolutions be signed by the Town Clerk, and copies sent to G. L. Wardle, esq., and William Honeywood, esq., M. P. and that the Resolutions be inserted in the Sun and Morning Chronicle, and in the county newspapers.

"Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to James Sharp, esq., Deputy Mayor, for his readiness in calling this Assembly (in the absence of the Mayor, who is from home) and for his impartial conduct in the Chair.

SAMPSON, Town Clerk."

CITY OF DURHAM.

At a Meeting of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the said City, holden at the Guildhall of the said City, the 5th day of April, 1809.

Resolved—That this Meeting having taken into consideration the patriotic and meritorious exertions of Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, esq. Member of Parliament, in originating and steadily supporting, in the honourable House of Commons, the recent Investigation of the Conduct of his Royal Highness, the late Commander in Chief, do

offer him their most sincere Thanks; and in testimony of the grateful sense which this Meeting feel of the spirited, firm, and upright manner, in which, amidst great discouragements, he instituted, conducted, and persevered in the Inquiry. That the Common Seal of this Ancient and Loyal City be affixed to this Resolution; and that the same be forthwith transmitted by the Mayor to Colonel Wardle.

And this Meeting having observed, with high approbation, the independent efforts of those Members of the House of Commons who assisted Col. Wardle in the progress of the Investigation, and who, on its termination, voted in favour of the Address moved by him, or of the Amendments proposed by Henry Bankes, esq. and Sir Thomas Turton, bart.; and also of those who divided against the Motion of the Right Honourable the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon that occasion: And this Meeting being of opinion, that efforts, at once honest and constitutional, and so well directed to promote the public welfare, should be rewarded with and should receive public support:

Resolved, therefore, That the grateful Thanks of this Meeting be, and they are hereby given to all those Members of the House of Commons who voted or divided in the Minority upon the Questions above adverted to:

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. Mayor for having convened, and for his conduct at the Meeting.

By Order, WILKINSON, Town Clerk.

Ordered—That these Resolutions be advertised in the Newcastle Chronicle and Courant, and in the Morning Chronicle and Courier Newspapers.

CITY OF LONDON, COMMON COUNCIL.

A Common Council, holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, on Thursday, the 6th day of April, 1809,

Resolved unanimously—That this Court has, on frequent occasions, evinced its detestation of the Public Abuses, which have been found to exist in various Departments of the State, and it cannot but equally condemn the corrupt practices developed by the late Investigation before the House of Parliament.

Resolved: That Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, esq., having, unawed by Ministerial Threats, exhibited serious Charges against the late Commander in Chief, which have been clearly substantiated, and which have, in fact, induced his Royal Highness

to resign a situation of which he is unworthy, is entitled to the esteem and gratitude of this Court and the Country.

Resolved unanimously: That the Thanks of this Court and the Freedom of this City in a Gold Box, of the value of One Hundred Guineas, be presented to Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, esq., in grateful testimony of the high sense they entertain of the zeal, intrepidity, and patriotism, which is so eminently evinced in that arduous and laudable undertaking.

Resolved: That the Thanks of this Court be presented to sir Francis Burdett, bart., (Seconder), lord Folkestone, Samuel Whitbread, esq., sir Samuel Romilly, knt., General Fergusson, Harvey Christian Combe, esq., Alderman, and one of the Representatives of this City in Parliament, and the rest of the 125 Independent Members who, upon the important question on the Conduct of his royal highness the Duke of York, attempted to stem the torrent of Corruption.

Resolved: That as a considerable number of those who voted in favour of the late Commander in Chief, on the 18th of March last, hold lucrative appointments at the pleasure of the Crown, a vote of acquittal under such circumstances must at all times appear extremely equivocal, but when given, as in the present instance, in direct contradiction to the evidence produced, which led to a decision so contrary to the legitimate expectations of the people, affords ground for apprehending that the decision has arisen from that preponderating influence of which this Court before has complained.

Resolved: That these and other Public Abuses call loudly for constitutional correction and redress, and evince the necessity of a radical and speedy reform, as essential to the safety and security of the just prerogative of the Crown as to the ancient and unalienable rights of the People.

Resolved: That the foregoing Resolutions be signed by the Town Clerk, and published in the Morning and Evening Papers. WOODTHORPE.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

At a numerous Meeting of the Freeholders of the County of Middlesex, convened by the Sheriff, at the Mermaid at Hackney, the 11th day of April instant, pursuant to a Requisition, "For the purpose of expressing the sentiments of the County on the Abuses which have been disclosed by the Investigation into the Con-

duct of the late Commander in Chief," the following Resolutions were adopted:—

1. That circumstances of public notoriety have, for a considerable time past, placed beyond all doubt the existence of gross and scandalous Abuses in various branches of the Executive Government of the Country.—Carried unanimously.

2. That the Abuses which have been found to prevail in all those departments of the Government in which inquiries have been instituted, have fully satisfied the Freeholders of this County of the necessity of further strict investigation into the remaining Public Departments of the State.—Carried unanimously.

3. That Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, Esq. by the unexampled courage, ability, and perseverance, with which he has pursued and completed an Inquiry into the conduct of the late Commander in Chief, has faithfully discharged the duties of a Member of Parliament, and has in an high degree merited the thanks and approbation of his Country.—Carried unanimously.

4. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir F. Burdett, bart. who seconded Col. Wardle's motion; to Lord Viscount Folkestone, for the active, uniform and able support which he afforded Mr. Wardle during the whole of the above Inquiry.—Carried unanimously.

5. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Samuel Whitbread, esq., Sir S. Romilly, Henry Martin, esq., Sir Thomas Turton, Major-General Ferguson, Thomas William Coke, esq., John Christian Curwen, esq., the hon. Thomas Brand, hon. W. H. Lyttleton, Lord Viscount Milton, Lord Viscount Althorpe, Charles Watkin William Wynne, esq., Lord Stanley, and the Minority of 125, who divided in favour of Mr. Wardle's Motion for an Address to the King on the subject of the late Inquiry.—Carried unanimously.

6. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Minority of 137, who on the above occasion supported the Amendment proposed by Sir Thomas Turton, bart.—Carried.

7. That George Byng, esq. by the uniform, upright, and independent conduct which he has observed during the time he has represented the County of Middlesex, and more particularly by the support he gave Mr. Wardle on this occasion, has highly merited the Thanks and Approbation of this Meeting.—Carried unanimously.

8. That the conduct of Ministers in the House of Commons, during the course of

the late Inquiry, has been a complete dereliction of that duty, which, as Representatives of the People, they owe to their Constituents, and has proved them wholly unworthy of the confidence of the Country.—Carried unanimously.

9. That from the part which Ministers appear to have taken on the above occasion, no hopes can be reasonably entertained of any effectual reformation of evils so generally and loudly complained of, until the executive Departments of the State shall be entrusted to men who will honestly endeavour to detect, not shield abuses, and to whom the People may look up as the avengers, not the abettors of corruption.—Carried unanimously.

10. That it is the fervent hope of this Meeting that the people of the United Kingdom will be animated by the result of the late Inquiry to prosecute a Reform in all the departments of the State, by returning honest and independent Representatives, who shall faithfully and zealously exert themselves to correct and annihilate corruptions, which weaken and even endanger the existence of the Empire.—Carried unanimously.

11. That William Mellish, esq. one of the Representatives of this County, by his conduct in the late Inquiry, and generally since his election, has proved himself unworthy of the confidence of his Constituents.—Carried.

12. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Sheriffs, for their prompt and constitutional compliance with the Requisition of the Freeholders to assemble this Meeting, and for their impartial conduct this day.—Carried unanimously.

13. That these Resolutions be published in the Public Newspapers.

J. J. SMITH.—C. S. HUNTER, Sheriffs.

TOWN AND BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the ancient Town and Borough of Southwark, April 12, 1809, John Townshend, Esq. Deputy Bailiff, in the Chair, in the absence of, and at the request of Sir Watkin Lewes, kt. High Bailiff.

1. Resolved, That the late Inquiry before the House of Commons, into the conduct of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, as Commander-in-Chief, has exposed the most flagrant abuses in the administration of public affairs. It appears peculiarly alarming, that at a time when the Continent of Europe has been nearly overwhelmed by military power, such facts have been proved as tend to sully

the honour and damp the ardour of our brave Soldiers, and thereby threaten the safety and existence of the British Empire.—Passed unanimously.

2. That the Independence and Patriotism of Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, esq. in the institution and conduct of the Inquiry, have eminently intitled him to the Thanks of this Meeting, and the gratitude of his Country; and they trust that the result of such singular perseverance will encourage him, and every other honest Member, to detect and bring to question the Agents of Corruption in every department of the State.—Passed unanimously.

3. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Viscount Folkestone, Lord Milton, Lord Althorpe, Samuel Whitbread, esq., J. C. Curwen, esq., T. W. Coke, esq., Sir S. Romilly, kt., General Ferguson, and the rest of the 125 honest Members who voted in the Minority on Mr. Wardle's motion.—Passed unanimously.

4. That the hostile conduct of ministers threats of infamy against the hon. Member who proposed the Inquiry; and above all the large majority who voted for the acquittal of the Duke, have convinced the Meeting, and, we trust, will convince the people of England, that a substantial Reform in the Representation of Parliament is the only barrier against corruption, and may afford some indemnity for the past, and security for the future.—Passed unanimously.

5. That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to Sir Thomas Turton, bart. and the 137 Members who voted for his Amendment. We observe, with pleasure, that he manifested an open hostility to corruption, in which, if he steadily and uniformly perseveres, he will insure the confidence and support of his Constituents.—Passed with only five dissentient.

6. That from a conviction that an honest Representation of the People in Parliament is the best and only security against the existence of abuses similar to those which have now been brought to light, we will, whenever we shall be called upon to exercise an Elective Franchise, support those only who shall pledge themselves worthy by a steady opposition to corruption, and a firm attachment to the pure and uncontaminated principles of the British Constitution.—Passed with a great majority.

7. That these Resolutions be printed in the Morning and Evening Papers.—Passed unanimously.

8. That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to Sir Watkin Lewes, the High Bailiff, for his readiness in convening the Town Hall.—Passed unanimously.

9. That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to John Townshend, esq. Deputy Bailiff, for his able and impartial conduct in the Chair.—Passed unanimously.

(Signed) JOHN TOWNSHEND, Dep. Bailiff.
(To be continued.)

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

REVOLUTION IN SWEDEN.—*Address of the Duke of Sudermania, (Continued from page 544.)*

—A continental peace was on the point of being concluded at Tilsit, and Sweden invited to form one of the contracting parties; Sweden refused; and in consequence of this refusal she was compelled to fight France, and her numerous allies, single-handed, on the Continent of Europe, and the siege of Stralsund was carried on with increased vigour. Even during that siege, nay, after the conclusion of the convention, which stipulated the evacuation of Pomerania and Rugen by our troops, offers of peace were made by the enemy, and rejected; and the German possessions of Sweden, the last remains of the conquests of Gustavus Adolphus the Great, were lost. Sweden had, however, to sustain losses still more severe. The winter of 1807, and the following year, serious apprehensions arose of an impending rupture with our neighbours, both on the East and West of our empire.—These apprehensions and dangers might have been warded off a few months before by the Swedish government, by its accession to the Peace of Tilsit; a peace which Sweden was not prevented from concluding by her only ally, which was offered on terms by no means irreconcilable with the public interest of Sweden.—The war broke out in Finland, and its gallant defenders, at the end of a severe and honourable conflict, with an enemy far superior in number, were obliged to give up to him their beloved country. This misfortune, the most calamitous event which has befallen Sweden for centuries past, might have been avoided, if the powerful preparations of defence, which the situation and nature of the country admitted, had been conducted with wisdom and skill, and if the plans of resistance, no sooner adopted than relinquished, had been conceived and carried into effect, with unity and firmness. Finland, which, in point of population and intrinsic value,

Meeting be
the High
vening the
sly.
Meeting be
sq. Deputy
al conduct
usly.
Dep. Bailiff.

ress of the
inued from

the point
d Sweden
contracting
in conse-
compelled
ous allies,
of Europe,
carried on
uring that
n of the
e evacua-
by our
le by the
German
remains of
lphus the
however,
re. The
ng year,
impending
both on
—These
ht have
efore by
cession
e which
onclud-
offered
ble with
he war
ant de-
and ho-
far su-
give up
s mis-
which
s past,
powerful
e situa-
mitted,
n and
ce, no
d been
with
ch, in
value,

formed one third part of the Swedish Empire, was lost, and this loss bore with the most destructive pressure on the two remaining thirds.—In this state of affairs, the means of waging war against such numerous enemies could not prove sufficient for any length of time, and no other resource was left than to burden with new taxes a people unable to bear them. The public necessities increased in proportion as the means and resources of the State were destroyed. Trade and navigation were at a stand; our mines and agriculture were unproductive from want of hands; universal ruin was spreading wide and far; and yet it was universally known that His Royal Majesty had again repeated his former firm and unalterable determination not to conclude a peace with the present Government of France, without which, however, no reconciliation with Denmark and Russia could take place.—In this situation of affairs a considerable part of the Western army formed a resolution to march to the capital with the patriotic view which appears by the Proclamation issued on their part. Similar movements took place among the rest of the Swedish troops, and it was in this critical position his Royal Majesty came to the unfortunate resolution of leaving Stockholm, and directing his family, and several officers of the state, to follow him. The garrison was ordered to file off, and it was intended to assemble an army in the South, to oppose the troops who were approaching from the North and West. Two distinct governments were thus to be formed, two armies to be assembled, and a civil war was to fill up the measure of our calamities and distress.—The King's departure was, however, postponed until the 13th of March, at noon. An universal consternation prevailed. The most respectful remonstrances against his Majesty's determination were rejected, and no other means remained even to secure the safety of the King's own person, than to prevent him from carrying his unfortunate resolve into effect. In these circumstances all the officers of state, in conjunction with the states of the Empire, who were present in Stockholm, expressed to his Royal Highness the constitutional wish that he might take the reins of government into his hands; a wish to which his Royal Highness, notwithstanding his advanced age, thought himself in duty bound to accede, confiding that this step will be viewed in its proper light by every honest patriotic Swede.

SIR JOHN MOORE.—The following Extract from the last Letter of General Sir John Moore has been printed, in pursuance of the order of the House of Commons:

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, to Viscount Castlereagh; dated Corunna, Jan. 13.

"Situated as this army is at present, it is impossible for me to detail to your Lordship the events which have taken place since I had the honour to address you from Astorga, on the 31st of December: I have therefore determined to send to England Brigadier-General Charles Stewart, as the Officer best qualified to give you every information you can want, both with respect to our actual situation and the events which have led to it.—Your Lordship knows, that had I followed my own opinion, as a military man, I should have retired with the army from Salamanca. The Spanish armies were then beaten; there was no Spanish force to which we could unite, and I was satisfied that no efforts would be made to aid us, or to favour the cause in which they were engaged.—I was sensible, however, that the apathy and indifference of the Spaniards would never have been believed; that had the British been withdrawn, the loss of the cause would have been imputed to their retreat, and it was necessary to risk this army to convince the people of England, as well as the rest of Europe, that the Spaniards had neither the power nor the inclination to make any efforts for themselves. It was for this reason that I made the march to Sahagan. As a diversion it succeeded; I brought the whole disposable force of the French against this army, and it has been allowed to follow me, without a single movement being made to favour my retreat. The people of the Gallicias, though armed, made no attempt to stop the passage of the French through the mountains. They abandoned their dwellings at our approach, drove away their carts, oxen, and every thing that could be of the smallest aid to the army. The consequence has been, that our sick have been left behind; and when our horses or mules failed, which on such marches, and through such a country, was the case to a great extent, baggage, ammunition, stores, &c. and even money, were necessarily destroyed or abandoned.—I am sorry to say, that the army, whose conduct I had such reason to extol on its march through Portugal, and on its arrival in Spain, has totally changed

its character since it began to retreat. I can say nothing in its favour, but that when there was a prospect of fighting the enemy, the men were then orderly and seemed pleased and determined to do their duty. In front of Villa Franca the French came up with the reserve, with which I was covering the retreat of the army; they attacked it at Calcabellos. I retired, covered by the 95th Regiment, and marched that night to Herresias, and from thence to Nogales and Lugo, where I had ordered the different divisions which preceded, to halt and collect. At Lugo, the French again came up with us. They attacked our advanced posts on the 6th and 7th, and were repulsed in both attempts, with little loss on our side. I heard from the prisoners taken, that three divisions of the French army were come up commanded by Marshal Soult; I therefore expected to be attacked on the morning of the 8th. It was my wish to come to that issue; I had perfect confidence in the valour of the troops, and it was only by crippling the enemy that we could hope either to retreat or to embark unmolested. I made every preparation to receive the attack, and drew out the army in the morning to offer battle. This was not Marshal Soult's object. He either did not think himself sufficiently strong, or he wished to play a surer game by attacking us on our march, or during our embarkation. The country was intersected, and his position too strong for me to attack with an inferior force. The want of provisions would not enable me to wait longer; I marched that night; and in two forced marches by advancing for six or eight hours in the rain, I reached Betanzos on the 10th instant.—At Lugo, I was sensible of the impossibility of reaching Vigo, which was at too great a distance, and offered no advantages to embark in the face of an enemy. My intention was then to have retreated to the peninsula of Betanzos, where I hoped to find a position to cover the embarkation of the army in Ares or Redes Bays; but having sent an Officer to reconnoitre it, by his report I was determined to prefer this place. I gave notice to the Admiral of my intention, and begged that the transports might be brought to Corunna; had I found them here on my arrival, on the 11th, the embarkation would easily have been effected, for I had gained several marches on the French. They have now come up with us, the transports are not arrived; my position in front of this place is a very bad one;

and this place, if I am forced to retire into it, is commanded within musquet shot, and the harbour will be so commanded by cannon on the coast, that no ship will be able to lay in it. In short, my Lord, General Stewart will inform you how critical our situation is. It has been recommended to me to make a proposal to the enemy, to induce him to allow us to embark quietly; in which case he gets us out of the country soon, and this place, with its stores, &c. complete; that otherwise we have the power to make a long defence, which must cause the destruction of the town. I am averse to make any such proposal, and am exceedingly doubtful if it would be attended with any good effect; but whatever I resolve on this head, I hope your Lordship will rest assured, that I shall accept no terms that are in the least dishonourable to the army or to the country. I find I have been led into greater length, and more detail, than I thought I should have had time for; I have written under interruptions, and my mind much occupied with other matter. My letter, written so carelessly, can only be considered as private. When I have more leisure, I shall write more correctly; in the mean time, I rely on General Stewart for giving your Lordship the information and detail which I have omitted. I should regret his absence, for his services have been very distinguished; but the state of his eyes makes it impossible for him to serve, and this country is not one in which cavalry can be of much use. If I succeed in embarking the army, I shall send it to England; it is quite unfit for further service until it has been refitted, which can best be done there.

JOHN MOORE."

PORTUGAL.—His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has appointed General William Car Beresford, Field Marshal and Commander in Chief of the Portuguese army. It appears from an Extraordinary Gazette, published at Seville on the 1st inst. that the division of Spanish troops commanded by the Duke of Alberquerque, was attacked on the 22d ult. in the position of Consavigna, by a French force of 11,000 foot and 3000 horse; which attack was made with the enemy's usual impetuosity, but completely failed, owing to the uncommon intrepidity displayed by the Spanish troops. The French were repulsed and defeated with the loss of upwards of 400 men.—Field Marshal Beres-

ford has issued the following GENERAL ORDERS:

"His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal having most graciously been pleased to entrust to Field Marshal Beresford the command in chief of his armies, thinks it right, on assuming the said command, to state and declare to his comrades in arms his sentiments on this occasion.—The Field Marshal and Commander in Chief, during the time he served in the army which was sent by his Britannic Majesty to support the admirable and prodigious efforts made by the Portuguese to recover their liberty and independence, so unjustly attacked, had an opportunity of becoming intimately acquainted with the military character of the nation; and although he thinks he has given the most effectual proofs of the favourable idea he had formed of that character, by accepting the above command, yet he wishes and hopes to prove in a more decisive manner, that the command in chief of the Portuguese army could not have possibly been confided to any other Officer so thoroughly convinced of the innate military talents and disposition of the Portuguese, who want nothing but some skill and uniformity of plan in the direction of their warlike energies, to prove that they still are what they have always been, if not the best soldiers, at least equal to the most valiant and most intrepid troops of Europe. The Field-Marshal Commander in Chief will therefore exert himself with incessant zeal and application to render those qualities as efficient as they are accustomed to be when they are assisted by a strict and well-regulated discipline. It is universally acknowledged that the Portuguese are loyal to their Sovereign, obedient to their lawful authorities who represent him, and endure, without murmurs, the privations and inconveniences to which armies must frequently submit. The patriotism, energy, and enthusiasm, of which they have but very lately given the most unquestionable proofs; the glory which they acquired in Roussillon, and the successes which they obtained on the northern frontiers, clearly shew their determined intrepidity and valour, qualities which cannot but render them worthy of their ancestors, and as famous as them.—No nation, Portuguese, is therefore better qualified than you are to form the best troops. The Field-Marshal, Commander in Chief, convinced of this truth, finds himself, with the utmost pleasure, identified with the Portuguese nation. He is a Portuguese Officer, and confides to

the Portuguese his character and honour, perfectly satisfied that they will be preserved unimpaired, and returned to him with gain.—The Field-Marshal, Commander in Chief, deems it necessary to assure you, that he will at all times consider it as one of his most important duties, to raise and reward merit, whenever he shall meet with it, and that the only recommendation he shall notice, will be that derived from zeal, activity, skill, valour, and patriotism, qualities which shall at all times find in him a sure and zealous protector.

The Field-Marshal, Commander in Chief, calls the attention of all the General and Subaltern Officers to the present state and improvement of the army, and being convinced that the best method of introducing discipline and a strict observance of duty into a military corps consists in the example set by the Officers, he hopes they will never fail to give their men a lesson so necessary and important. The Field-Marshal Commander-in Chief feels anxious to embrace the earliest opportunity of inspecting the different corps which have already taken the field, as well as the rest of the army; and he shall avail himself of all occasions which offer to promote the satisfaction, decorum, and advantage of the officers and soldiers who are entrusted to his care.—Dated, Head Quarters, Lisbon, the 13th March 1809."

HOLLAND.—From the Royal Courant, published at Amsterdam on the 4th Inst.

Louis Napoleon, by the grace of God, and the Constitution of the kingdom, King of Holland, and Constable of France, taking into consideration that the term prescribed by our Decree of the 27th of November, 1808, No. 5, expires on the 31st instant. Taking further into consideration that it is necessary, at the present period, to take further measures, either for the renewal of the aforesaid Decree, or the previous Decrees respecting the means of carrying into execution the prohibition of all commerce with the enemy, or of replacing them, in whole or part, by other measures calculated to place all matters relative to navigation on a footing of complete uniformity with the Decree of France and of our Brother the Emperor; and notwithstanding the difficulties arising from the maritime war, and those which commerce suffers for its own interest, being continually anxious to contribute to that important object, we have decreed and hereby decree—

Art. 1. All commerce, correspondence,

and communication with England, remains prohibited according to the purport of our previous Laws, Decrees, and Regulations, and particularly such of them as expired on the 21st instant, so far as no alteration is therein made by the present decree.

2. From the first day of the succeeding month of April, the following fifty-two articles may be exported to friendly or neutral countries in Dutch vessels, or those sailing under the flag of neutral or allied powers, viz.

Books, beans, butter, brandy, bricks, white lead, cheese, canbricks, copper manufactured, clocks, clover and garden seeds, eels, flower roots, fruits, geneva, gauzes, glue, hoops, hides dried, iron manufactured, leather, linen, linseed, madders, mill-stones, oak bark, ground oats, oils of seed, pottery, powder blue, peas, paper, perfumery, plants, pipes, playing cards, quills, rushes, silk manufactured, sacch. saturni, starch, tiles, thread and thread-tape, tobacco, tarras, turf, vinegar, watches, wine, wood manufactured.

3. The Importation of the following 32 articles shall be permitted, viz.

Brandy, ashes (pot), candles, copper, corn, fish-oil, isinglass, hare-skin, hemp and hemp seed, hides (rough), iron, leather (unmanufactured), lead, linseed, mercury, mats, pitch, Russia skins, rape-seed, stock-fish, soda, tar, tallow, tobacco, timber, wax-wool, wool, bristles, and fruit.

4. The commodities prepared for exportation shall not be put on board until previous notice has been given thereof to the Marine Director of the Ways and Means, with a particular specification of such articles, which cannot be exported but from the ports of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Dordrecht, Groningen, Embden, Harlingen, Veere, Zierikzee, Delfzil and Brouwershaven.

5. In order to the admission of any vessels into the harbours of this kingdom, they must enter in ballast or laden with the products of the north, specified in the third Article, with the exception alone of such vessels as are laden with salt, or those which in the years 1806 or 1807 obtained our licence to proceed to China for a cargo of tea, upon shewing our said authority.

6. No other goods than those mentioned in the 4th Article shall be suffered to

be imported under any pretence whatever; all prohibited goods of whatever description, and in whatsoever quantity imported, and also the vessels on board which they may be found, being hereby declared liable to confiscation.

7. In case of suspicions arising respecting the origin of the cargo from Informations received by the officers of the Marine Director, the same shall be provisionally sequestered until proof be given that it has not come from England or her colonies.

8. Our Consuls in giving certificates of origin for goods shipped at their ports of residence for Dutch Ports, shall not confine themselves to certifying that the goods neither come from England nor her colonies, nor belong to English commerce, but they shall further specify the place from whence the goods originally came, the documents produced to them in proof of the respective declarations, and the names of the vessels in which they were conveyed from the place of origin to the port where the Consuls reside. They are required to transmit a copy of the said declarations to our Marine Director.

[The remaining eight Articles relate merely to the details of the manner in which the above Articles are to be carried into execution, by the Marine Director and the three Naval Commanders of the Coast Districts. The Decree is dated at Utrecht, on the 31st of March.]

SPANISH REVOLUTION.—*Decree of the Supreme Junta.*

His Majesty, considering that the French, in the unjust and barbarous war which they wage against Spain, pay no regard to any principle of the laws of nations—that they shamelessly violate the most solemn treaties, as has been verified with respect to the capitulation of Madrid, since, contrary to the stipulations therein made, they imprison, persecute, and banish peaceable Citizens and respectable Magistrates, imposing, at the same time, the most disgraceful punishments on other unfortunate persons on the slightest suspicions and most frivolous pretexts.—Seeing that they continue every where to defile the sanctity of temples, the purity of domestic honour, and to trample on the rights of humanity

(*To be continued.*)